



**Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
Band of Pottawatomis Indians
GUN LAKE TRIBE**

David K. Sprague
Tribal Chairman

Federally Acknowledged
August 23, 1999

Service Area: Allegan, Barry
Kalamazoo, Kent, and
Ottawa Counties

**TESTIMONY OF DAVID K. (D.K.) SPRAGUE
CHAIRMAN, MATCH-E-BE-NASH-SHE-WISH BAND
OF POTTAWATOMI INDIANS (GUN LAKE TRIBE)**

**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REGULATORY REFORM COMMITTEE
JULY 24, 2007
HEARING ON THE
GUN LAKE CASINO CLASS III GAMING COMPACT**

Good morning Chairwoman Farrah, Vice Chairwoman Scott and members of the Committee. My name is D.K. Sprague. Since 1992 I have served as the Chairman of the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomis Indians, also known as the Gun Lake Tribe. We are a federally recognized tribe with sovereign rights vested in the U.S. Constitution, and acts of Congress, that have been upheld by U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Today I am here to ask for your support for a resolution to approve the Class III tribal-state gaming compact that I signed on May 9, 2007 with Governor Jennifer M. Granholm.

My Tribe achieved federal recognition on August 23, 1999; a short time after the Legislature approved the last round of tribal gaming compacts. After the Tribal Council and I were directed by our membership, via referendum, to pursue the benefits of gaming we engaged in discussion with the Legislature.

Every federally recognized tribe in Michigan besides my Tribe has a signed and duly approved gaming compact. We are not asking for anymore, or any less, than what every other tribe has. We simply ask for fair treatment.

In many respects my Tribe has had a harder row to hoe than any other tribe. We have been alone in seeking a compact, unlike the groups of tribes compacted in 1993 and 1998.

Through it all we have worked in good faith with the Legislature and the Governor's office on a compact. Governor Granholm and I have signed the most lucrative and flexible compact in state history. It also provides the highest level of tribal casino regulation ever.

Some notable provisions that differentiate this compact from all previous compacts include:

- twenty-one (21) years of age to work or gamble;
- Tribe will comply with taxation of alcohol and tobacco;
- 8% - 12% state revenue share in exchange for;
- limited nine (9) county exclusivity zone;
- state oversight and access to casino financial records

Ultimately the compact provides self-sufficiency for the Tribe and regulation and revenue sharing to the State.

This compact will also provide fair and equitable treatment for the Tribe, thousands of good-paying jobs, and millions of dollars in new economic growth, and state and local revenue sharing dollars.

In some ways it will also bring the Tribe, the forty (40) supporting organizations, and over 10,000 individual supporters in Friends of Gun Lake Indians, some justice.

The merits of this compact deserve your support, but I also ask you to consider the issue of fair treatment. Of twelve (12) tribes in Michigan, the Gun Lake Tribe is the only one without a compact. This injustice should end now. I welcome any questions or comments you may have. Thank you for your time.